COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
18000 CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
974-3888

JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
STEPHEN SPANGLER TROTT, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 18, 1977

The Honorable Peter J. Pitchess
Sheriff, Los Angeles County
Hall of Justice
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Sheriff Pitchess:

In re Our case number 100-1652

Pursuant to your request, this office has investigated the circumstances surrounding the injury-shooting of Robert Walter Forrest.

On January 9, 1977, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Forrest simulated a weapon and held up the Cap and Cork Liquor Store located at 17301 Valley Boulevard, La Puente. [redacted], a store employee, reported to the Sheriff's Office that the suspect was hidden in some shrubbery opposite [redacted] Harmsworth Avenue. At 11:00 p.m., a Sheriffs broadcast on the robbery described the suspect as "a male Mexican, possibly a Puerto Rican, mid-thirties, approximately six-foot one inch, 180 to 190 pounds, with an Afro-type hairstyle, wearing a brown leather coat and was last seen on foot in the area."

Within minutes after the robbery someone answering that description attempted to gain entrance to the residence located at [redacted] Harmsworth Avenue by knocking and pretending to know the occupant. The resident did not open the door. Forrest then knocked at the door of the [redacted] residence, located at [redacted] Harmsworth Avenue. When [redacted] opened the door, Forrest violently pushed her aside and forced entrance into the house. From that point he terrorized the occupants of the house, committing the violent felonies of robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.

After some time, one of the occupants of the house hit Forrest over the head with a lamp and a struggle ensued that allowed some of the occupants to escape from the house. [redacted] ran from the house to the street where he spotted the radio car of Deputies Warren Wadkins and James Cinderelli, who were in the area because of the robbery broadcast. [redacted] ran to the radio car and told the deputies, "There is a guy with a knife up there cutting everybody in my house and on the block." The deputies observed blood flowing from the left side of [redacted]s head from a knife wound inflicted by Forrest.

When the deputies reached the location pointed out by [redacted], they observed a vehicle located in the driveway of the adjacent house with a man seated behind the wheel. They recognized him as the robbery suspect. As Deputy Wadkins exited his radio car, Forrest rapidly accelerated the stolen vehicle toward him. Cinderelli then fired one round from his shotgun into the side of the vehicle Forrest was driving. As the vehicle continued away from the location, Cinderelli fired three more rounds at the car. The car was hit by shotgun pellets but apparently Forrest was unscathed. Forrest was pursued by the deputies a short distance to the dead end of Harmsworth at the site of a school yard.

Deputies Alfred Parker and Ben Miller who had also monitored the robbery broadcast were drawn to the vicinity of the school by the sound of gunfire. Parker took a position on the south side of the school where he observed the suspect Forrest running toward him being pursued by a deputy sheriff. The deputy Parker saw chasing Forrest fired two rounds at him. As the suspect neared Parker, he recognized him as the robbery suspect and yelled, "Freeze, stop running." When Forrest continued running, Parker fired one round at him from his shotgun. Forrest kept running but grabbed the side of his head. Parker ran to intercept him and observed Forrest fall to the ground while scaling a six-foot chain link fence. Upon observing that the suspect was unarmed, Parker handcuffed him and took him into custody.

Forrest was transported to the Baldwin Park Community Hospital where he refused medical treatment. He was then transported to the USC Medical Center Jail ward where he was treated by Dr. Alfonso Baez for a minor gunshot laceration that was closed by three sutures. He did not require hospitilization.

It would appear that the deputies acted out of concern for the lives and safety of anyone who might come in contact with Forrest. We find no culpability on the part of the deputies for the force exerted in capturing the suspect.

Very truly yours,

JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP
District Attorney

by

ROBERT N. SWEET
Deputy District Attorney

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